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- ART. IX.—1. *An Introduction to the Study of Grecian and Roman Geography.* By GEORGE LONG, Esq. late of the University of Virginia, now of the University of London; and ROBLEY DUNGLISON, M. D. of the University of Virginia. Charlottesville, Virginia. F. Carr & Co. 1829. 8vo. pp. 293.
2. *Elements of Geography, Ancient and Modern. With an Atlas.* By J. E. WORCESTER. A new Edition. Boston. Hilliard, Gray, & Co. 1829. 12mo. pp. 272.

THE general design of the work of Professors Long and Dunglison appears to be much the same as that of Butler, in his ‘*Geographia Classica; or the Application of Ancient Geography to the Classics.*’ But the Roman Geography, furnished by Dr. Dunglison, is left, as it is acknowledged to be by the author, incomplete. It was his wish, as he says, to add the geographical history of the Roman colonies and conquests; but his very restricted opportunities have not permitted him to do so. Professor Long also offers, as an excuse for small errors or omissions, the limited time in which the work was prepared for the press. The public have long since ceased to regard apologies of this kind, offered by living authors, or by others in their behalf; and with good reason; for there is not such a lamentable deficiency, in any department of learning, as to compel a writer to send forth his productions prematurely, or against the decisions of his better judgment. We would not be understood to speak with severity in this particular case. The work is valuable, and the undertaking laudable; but the admissions of the authors show, that it might have possessed more value, and have deserved more praise.

‘The chapters on Phœnicia, Babylonia, the Scythian tribes, the Persians, Egyptians, and Carthaginians,’ as Professor Long informs us in his preface, ‘are founded entirely on the work of Heeren, entitled *Ideas on the Polity and Commerce of the principal Nations of Antiquity.*’* There is a remarkable oversight here in not including the chapter on Æthiopia, which,

* ‘*Ideen ueber die Politik, den Verkehr und den Handel der vornehmsten Voelker der alten Welt.* Von A. H. L. Heeren. Göttingen, 1815.’ It does not appear that Professor Long made use of the fourth volume published at a later period, and translated by Mr Bancroft, on the *Polity of Greece.*

Mr Long says, was added by Dr Duglison. And Dr Duglison, in a note subjoined to the preface of his colleague, forgot to ascribe the article on *Æthiopia* to the same source, from which those on *Phœnicia*, &c. were taken. We presume it was merely an oversight; since from the frequent references to Heeren and to the same ancient authorities which he cites, it cannot be supposed that any concealment was intended.

The chapters just enumerated, constitute nearly one half of the book, and a very valuable part of it. The work of Heeren, from which it is drawn, enjoys a high reputation, and may be regarded as a standard work. 'If a pure regard to truth,' says Heeren, 'is the first virtue of a historian, I may hope that the reader will not be disappointed in this respect. In no part of the work was it my purpose to establish any hypothesis, to defend any favorite theory, or to gainsay any adversary. Instead of this, what I have found, I have imparted as I found it; that which is certain, as certain, and that which is probable, as probable. To this end it was necessary to exercise great care in the selection and critical use of the authorities from which my materials were drawn. I made it a fundamental rule to cite as authorities, not merely credible writers, but, as far as possible, those who were contemporaneous with the events; and to use later authors only so far as it could be shown, that their accounts were drawn from the period of which I was speaking. Their proofs were constantly referred to, and their citations subjected anew to a thorough revision. An unnecessary multiplication of them I have carefully avoided; while I consider it the sacred duty of the historian to annex them so far as is necessary; since he has no right to require that the reader should believe him upon his bare word.' This passage, from Heeren's preface, in which we have endeavored to express the author's meaning faithfully and clearly, while it furnishes, with great simplicity, the primary laws which should govern the historian, marks also the value of his own work. No German scholar, of such well-earned reputation, would hazard that reputation among his vigilant and learned peers, by professions which could not be verified by rigid scrutiny. And we have the testimony of a scholar widely read in German literature, the translator of Heeren's *Reflections on the Politics of Ancient Greece*, and of his *Manual of Ancient History*, in praise of his prior and larger work, embracing *Asia and Africa*.

‘It is on that larger work,’ says Mr Bancroft, ‘that the literary reputation of Mr Heeren primarily depends. With respect to the Asiatic and African nations, he has discussed his subject in its full extent, and furnishes a more distinct account of their ancient condition, than has perhaps been given by any other writer. Early in life he was led to consider the history of the world, as influenced by colonial establishments and commerce; and the results of his investigations, in a department of science to which he is enthusiastically attached, and to which he has uninterruptedly devoted the most precious years of a long life, are communicated in the elaborate production which we have named.’

We shall not be thought to have gone out of our proper path, in saying thus much of the source from which so large and valuable a part of the work of Professors Long and Dungalison is taken. Whatever goes to establish the fidelity and worth of the learned German work, is transferred in a degree to that which is founded upon it. And we are free to testify, so far as we have been able to compare the work before us with Heeren’s, that great judgment is shown in the selection of the materials, and those only are chosen which bear most directly upon the general purpose which the authors have in view. We fully agree also with Mr Long, in the importance of attending to the political and commercial relations of the Greeks with the people of Asia and Africa, in order to study, to the best advantage, the history of the Greek nation. An outline of these relations is furnished, and the geographical descriptions, which are necessary to make us acquainted with such portions of those countries as were known to the Greeks and Romans. It would have been useful if the work had been accompanied with maps, as good as those of Heeren, if not better. This would not have greatly increased its cost, while it would have added much to its value, for those who have not constant access to ancient maps.

In the *Grecian Geography*, Mr Long ceases to take Heeren for a guide. Indeed the German author is quite brief and general in that part of his work which presents a geographical view of Greece; while Professor Long extends the subject into much greater length, and treats it with minuteness. Hence the latter is necessarily dry; so much so, that one would not think of reading it through by itself, in course, any more than he would a book of chronological tables, or a catalogue of an extensive library. But with good ancient maps, such as those of D’Anville, one may take the book as

his guide, and by spending a few hours at a time, he will be able, in two or three days, to travel, without weariness, over all parts of Greece, and all the provinces that were colonized or conquered by its inhabitants. In this way it may be read with pleasure and profit, not unlike that which we receive from a book of travels. As a topographical guide, it is accurate as well as minute ; and by a brief record of some of the most interesting facts in history, as we pass through the places in which they occurred, we are furnished at once with a guide and a journal, which relieve the tediousness of the way. Here we learn, or call to mind, that such a prince, or warrior, or poet, or philosopher, or historian, was born ; and there that such a battle was fought, and that such a hero conquered. Indeed a great variety of local history is thus collected, and associated with places ; and it is done too with good judgment, so as to impart much useful instruction.

The Roman Geography, by Professor Duglison, is conducted according to the same plan as that of Greece, excepting the deficiency which has been already mentioned ; and its execution deserves the same kind of praise as that which we have bestowed upon the Grecian Geography. From its topographical minuteness, this book may be regarded, perhaps, as mainly valuable for a book of reference. Accordingly it is furnished with an index for this purpose. But we are sorry to be compelled to say, that the Index is exceedingly defective. We are at a loss to conceive of any sufficient apology for this. It is incomplete in regard to the names of places, and very faulty in the arrangement of them. It should be perfectly alphabetical ; but there is no uniform regard to alphabetical arrangement, except in the initial letter. Thus we find in the following order, *Firmum*, *Flusor*, *Fiesoli*, *Florentia* ; and again, *Marsicum*, *Manduriae*, *Misenum*, *Marmora*. These negligences, and others which might be pointed out, render the book very inconvenient for one of its principal uses, namely, a manual for reference ; and they deserve to be held up as a warning to all concerned in similar undertakings, against that hasty production of their learned labors, which is prompted only by personal convenience.

There is another subject sufficiently grave in itself, though it is difficult to treat it with that inflexible gravity which it merits. We mean the liberty which is taken with the names of persons and places in regard to the orthography ; which seems to us to

have been long since settled by custom, and the usage of the best authors. The laws prescribed by custom appear to us entitled to the same respect in this particular, as in the spelling of more common words. The advice of Dr Johnson, on this subject, is worthy of being called up; in which he ‘recommends to those whose thoughts have been, perhaps, employed too anxiously on verbal singularities, not to disturb on narrow views, or for minute propriety, the orthography of their fathers. It has been asserted, that for the law to be known is of more importance than to be right. Change, says Hooker, is not made without inconvenience, even from worse to better. . There is in constancy and stability a general and lasting advantage, which will always overbalance the slow improvements of gradual correction.’ But our authors are of a different opinion, and do not estimate their learning to be of so little worth. Grecian and Roman names, which have been Anglicized, for a long period, by common consent, they have restored to their Greek or Latin forms and terminations, sometimes occasioning inconvenience to the reader, and generally producing a stiffness and singularity far from being agreeable. Going still farther in their work of reform, they have endeavored, in some instances, to purify Greek names and *cognomens*, from Latin corruptions; paying, as we think, a sorry compliment to the Greeks, who were themselves most flagrant corrupters of foreign names. Herodotus, for example, in giving names to the deities which presided over the Egyptian oracles, makes them all Greek; and every oriental name is Grecized or translated. But it is time for us to give a specimen of what we have condemned in general terms; and a few words will suffice. Thus we find *Horatius* and *Livius*, *Philippus* and *Alexandrus*, *Aristoteles*, *Manethon*, *Strabon*, and *Diodorus Siciliotes*. This last, since it is so much disguised, it would have been well to have written *Sikeliot*, and this would have preserved an analogy between it and *Kelts* and *Keltic*, which are constantly used by the same authors for the vulgar appellations, *Celts* and *Celtic*, which have treacherously crept in through the Latin. Now and then they forget themselves, and fall into a Latin or English corruption; as *Euxinus* for *Euxineus*, *Livy*, *Homer*. In the description of Præneste, it is said, ‘From the heights, Annibal reconnoitred Roma.’—‘Here Horatius read over his Homer.’ Why is not *Homeros* entitled to the same kind of respect as *Horatius*?

Changes similar to those made in the names of persons, are made also in those of places. Thus *Alexandreia*, *Antiocheia*, *Stratoniceia*, *Euxeinus*, *Acragas*, are restored to the Greek forms ; names much better known in the Latin forms, and which are so noted on ancient maps. *Acragas* (or *Agragas*), the modern *Girgenti*, on the southern side of Sicily, is no other than the *Agrigentum* of the Latin classic historians ; and it is inserted with this name in a tabular view of the chief places in Sicily, furnished by Professor Dunglison ; but in the article on Grecian Geography, the ancient name is *Acragas* only ; which might perplex a scholar who had not recently risen from the perusal of his Strabo. In the spelling of *Euxeinus* the author is not uniform. It is sometimes *Euxinus*, and sometimes *Euxine*. So also *Alexandria* sometimes occurs instead of *Alexandreia*. In regard to oriental names, the authors before us do not afford much occasion for remark. *Babelmandeb* is written instead of *Babelmandel* ; and coming nearer the true name, we have no other objection to it than this, that it varies from the name accidentally adopted in English geographies and maps ; and though it may be corrected in one letter, it may be still inaccurate in another. We would rather leave it therefore, as it has been once settled, like the name of the great prophet of the Musselman ; for we should prefer to read and write *Mahomet* all our lives long, rather than be puzzled and confounded between *Mahomed*, and *Mohammed*, and *Mahummed*, and any other varieties which the name may have assumed.

The peculiarities to which we have adverted above, in the spelling of Grecian and Roman names, we cannot think commendable. We regret that such innovations should be made or countenanced by scholars so distinguished as Professors Long and Dunglison, the former of whom, in consequence of his high reputation for classic learning, has been transferred to the university of London. In scholars of ordinary acquirements, we should be very prone to call such peculiarities affected or pedantic. And the danger of giving currency to them is vastly increased, by the emmence of those who adopt them. We feel confident, that these remarks will not be deemed ill-natured or captious, since we are ready to acknowledge the substantial merits of the work, and are grateful for the aid which it affords to the student in the ancient classics. And it is worthy of being recorded, in honor of the university

of Virginia, that, at such an early period of its history, it should send forth so creditable a book for the promotion of classical learning.

Amidst all the clamor, which has been raised against the study of the ancient classics, we are confident they are gaining favor among us. A wider view is taken of their end and aim. Instead of literal translations for the dull and the idle, we are procuring better grammars, more interesting books for beginners, and editions of authors for the schools, giving less artificial aid for interpretation, but furnishing explanations well fitted for the young scholar, concerning the design, the reasoning, the allusions, and peculiar expressions of those authors. The polity of the Greeks and Romans, and their relations with other states, are brought more into view; and in general their antiquities are becoming an object of increased attention. All this has something to do with the advancement of learning. Such helps cannot be lost upon the young mind, cannot fail to impart an activity and ardor, which will reach beyond the mere letter.

While we were taking this notice of the work of Professors Long and Dunglison, a new edition of Mr Worcester's *Elements of Geography* appeared, which is well deserving of notice in our pages. The author's reputation in this department of learning is so well established, and has been made known so widely by the testimonials of competent judges, who have borne witness to his skill and accuracy, that it is unnecessary to enlarge upon the merits of the new edition in these particulars. But as geographical works necessarily require alterations and additions, and as experience sometimes suggests useful hints in regard to the arrangement of works of this kind, it may be useful to give a brief account of the changes in form and arrangement, which this edition has undergone. These changes are described in the author's preface, as follows.

‘The principal changes in the plan of the work are the following;—1st. The statistical matter has been separated from the book and formed into a series of Tables, which are inserted in the Atlas. 2dly. The Book and the Atlas have been more intimately connected with each other, by questions to be answered from the maps, which are inserted throughout the book, in the order in which it is deemed most suitable that they should be attended to. 3dly. The paragraphs which form the different sections, or subdivisions, have been numbered, and at the bottom of

the pages have been placed, with corresponding numbers, questions for examination, which will be found useful as a help both to the student in preparing for his recitations, and to the teacher in hearing them. 4thly. Most of the proper names have been divided into syllables and accented, and when necessary, respelled, in order to indicate their pronunciation.

‘In order to accommodate the work to these changes, and also to adapt it more exactly to the existing state of geographical knowledge, both parts, the modern geography and the ancient, have been written entirely anew. Some matter contained in the former editions has been omitted, in order to make room for other matter more interesting and important.’

These changes are certainly improvements in this elementary work. While nothing is lost in the quantity of knowledge of the subject which is imparted, something is saved both to the pupil and instructor in the amount of labor. This is the true and ultimate object in the arrangement and classification of the materials, in works upon the arts and sciences. For nothing is more discouraging to the student, than obscurity and confusion in these respects; and he should not be expected to systematize what an author may have thrown together without a well defined plan. We do not claim for ourselves any extraordinary faculty of invention in these matters; but it appears to us, that Mr Worcester has arrived at such clearness and simplicity in his plan, that nothing is left to be desired in this respect.

In the materials of the work there is nothing superfluous; and so far as we can judge from a cursory examination, it contains as much information upon the subjects, as could well be contained in the same compass. The ancient geography, which we have examined more than the modern, conveys a great deal of instruction in a small space; and in quantity of matter bears a due proportion to that of the modern.

It is difficult to furnish maps, at once so cheap as to secure an extensive use, and so thorough in the execution, and so fair and durable in the materials, as to make them very valuable. Our examination of Mr Worcester’s Atlas has not extended much beyond the general maps of Europe, Asia, and Africa; which may probably be taken as a fair specimen of the whole. They are superior to those which accompanied the preceding editions of his Geography, and contain about as many names as could be profitably introduced, which are also selected with good judgment.

On the whole, we consider both the works, which have drawn from us this short notice, well adapted to the end for which they were intended ; and the latter is a decided improvement upon the stereotype edition, which had gained very widely the favor and confidence of the public.

ART. X.—*Specimens of American Poetry, with Critical and Biographical Notices.* In Three Volumes. 12mo. By SAMUEL KETTELL. Boston. S. G. Goodrich & Co. 1829.

‘*Tout ce qui n’est pas prose est vers.*’ Mr Kettell seems to have thought, that the proper translation of this maxim of the philosopher is, that all which is not prose is *poetry*. He has accordingly filled more than a volume with measured lines, which have just as much claim to be called poetry, as metre or rhyme can confer on them, and no more. It is a cause of regret, that a collection, which professes to be selected from the works of American poets, should have been made upon such a principle ; for we think it rather worse to have produced bad poetry than none at all. As for the idea advanced in the preface, that ‘everything published among us must have some value, if not on account of its intrinsic merits, at least as affording some insight into the spirit and temper of the times, and illustrating the degree of social and mental improvement in the community,’ it is a doctrine we cannot agree to. It matters very little at what period, or by whom bad poetry was written, and we should hope that it would be set down as characteristic of nothing but the individual taste and skill of the author. Thus it adds nothing, but the reputation of bad taste and judgment to that for sanctity, which was enjoyed by John Eliot, the Indian Apostle, that he aided and abetted in making a wretched version of the Psalms of David ; and Cotton Mather’s punning elegies indicate nothing more, we hope, than his irresistible propensity.

Mr Kettell quotes the following extract from the ‘Bay Psalm Book,’ which was published at Cambridge in the year 1640, and was the first *book* printed in the English Colonies, although an *Almanac* and the *Freeman’s Oath* had been printed at Cambridge the year before.*

*The first book printed in the NEW WORLD was at Mexico, in the year 1544, entitled *Doctrina Christiana para los Indios*.